

(Written Specially For The Bulletin.)

I wonder if you noticed the recent statistics from the census bureau that 54,314,476 of the inhabitants of this country live—or did live when the census of 1920 was taken—in towns of over 2,500 population. There are 2,793 municipalities of this class in the United States.

What is even more suggestive is the fact that about three-quarters of these are crowded in the 28 cities having over 35,000 inhabitants each.

I found at this moment just what the 1920 census made the total population of the country, but it is air enough, I fancy, to assume that at least one-half of our people now live in cities, towns or villages of 2,500 or more.

And that good third of the total population is congested in the bigger cities,

tending on hard facts, the sooner we accept it and shape our habits accordingly the wiser we shall show ourselves.

We who disapprove the growing tendency towards city life can no more check it than Mrs. Partington could sweep back the Atlantic ocean with her broom. The majority of the people who were still in the majority, with all a majority's power, We certainly can't stop it, now, when we have fallen to the rank of a mere minority.

One question which we shall have to ask ourselves, sooner or later, and which we might as well begin asking, is whether we are going to let the administration the new control is going to bring about. It is fairly clear that institutions designed for the service of a rural population in a new country live,

When the United States' first became a country there were only half-a-dozen cities in it and even they were hardly more than would be called villages, now Philadelphia was the only one with as many as 50,000 inhabitants. New York city had but 22,000, Boston about the same, and the majority of the population were farmers. When to the number of those actively cultivating the soil were added the thousands of fishermen from every little hamlet along the Atlantic coast, and the other thousands of hunters and trappers, the population of the fringed the inland frontiers and kept pushing steadily further back for the benefit of the farmers moving them—when all these were added together the remainder, comprising city residents, was so small as to be practically insignificant on scattered farms cannot be expected to answer perfectly the needs of the country. The country is concentrated in big cities and manufacturing centers. The more wisely those institutions were designed for their original purpose, the wider they straggle from present needs.

I don't know but some of you will have I am sure off my "colley" and mixing up with the "chicken" and the farmer, talking to other farmers, should let alone, but I can't help thinking that the farmers whose forefathers founded the nation must still have a deep interest in if not in partisan politics, at least in the larger national citizenship involving the country's future.

It has been a long time since I have read anything with as much interest as a recent editorial by William Alden

That was the character of the population for which the founders of the new nation made a constitution, and planned a scheme of government.

The first president was a Virginia farmer, who, having led the Continental armies to victory, promptly returned to his beloved farm at Mount Vernon to resume what he regarded as a much better and more worth-while life. From that farm he was conscripted, sorely against his will, to act as the first chief magistrate. And from the presidency, after eight years, he joyfully returned to that same farm and took up once more the work of an active farmer.

White, the famous Kansas journalist, is entitled "Why Is a Legislator?" do not approve of its tendency to profanity, any more than you, but it has a vigor of thought and a plain, homely language which I feel sure some of you will find as bracing as I did. And probes with a keen lancet one of the public sores which have developed from our attempt to continue feeding a country on a 1789 diet. Mr. Allen answers his question "Why Is a Legislator in this way:

"Take 175 men out of all walks

That was the way we began: a rural community, made up of simple-living, hard-handed and hard-hearted countrymen, fully led by men of their own class who were inspired by their own spirit. In much the same course we kept on for the first half century. As a singular illustration of the success which we achieved in foreign and impartial eyes during those early days, let me quote an extract from a letter from Sydney Smith, the famous English essayist and divine, to Lord Jeffrey of Edinburgh. The letter is dated Nov. 23,

"I doubt if there ever was an instance of a new people conducting their affairs with so much wisdom, or if there ever was such an extensive scene of human happiness and prosperity." In another letter to Earl Grey, dated only a week later, the same writer says:

"There is nothing so curious and interesting as the rapidity with which the Americans are spreading themselves over that immense continent."

They are a very sensible people; and seem to have conducted their affairs, since the whole very well.

Their economy and their cheap government will do some good in this country (England) by way of example. Their allowance to Monroe (their president) is \$5,000 per annum, and he finds his own victuals, fire and candles."

You will observe that there has been some change in the matters of governmental "economy" and "wisdom," so flatteringly described as American characteristics by this critic of a little over a hundred years ago. Very few people, whether at home or abroad, would write in such terms, now. Is it a case of cause and effect or is it a mere coincidence that the change should have occurred simultaneously with the excessive and top-heavy development of city life?

HOUSEKEEPING

We'll have to leave that to profounder students to answer. That the two tendencies have grown side by side, can't be denied, whatever we may think about their relationships to each other.

The census figures make plain that at least half the entire population of the land is now in the cities. In the eastern states which you all know best, such as Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the proportion is even greater. In all these states the city population is a clear majority. What was formerly the talk in now either waning or dying out of the country, making it whenever occasion arises. There has been a complete reversal in the source of power as well as in the ideals of the movement from the days when a nation of farmers led by a practical farmer, started out on its new career.

We of the farms think what we pleased about the healthfulness of this change. That is our privilege and our right. But when we think of the cities, it is a different fact. And as this life is in the main a very practical affair, built on and de-

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36-inch Dress Percales, new styles, figures, light greens—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

Best quality Apron Gingham, good checks—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

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Best quality, 27-inch Outing Linen—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 3 YARDS

Peggy Cloth, 32 inches wide, standard—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

THE PORTLAND

A swallow in the spring
Came to our granary, and beneath the eaves
Essayed to make a nest, and there did bring
Wet earth and straw and leaves.
Day after day she toiled
With patient art, but, ere her work was crowned,
Some sad mishap the tiny fabric spoiled
And dashed it to the ground;
She found the ruin wrought;
But, not cast down, forth from the place she flew,
And with her mate fresh earth and grasses brought,
And built her nest anew.

But scarcely had she placed
The last soft feather on its ample floor,
When wicked hands, or chance, again laid waste,
And wrought the ruin o'er.
But still her heart she kept,
And toiled again; and last night, hearing calls,
I looked, and, lo! three little swallows slept
Within the earth-made walls.
What truth is here, O man!
Hath hope been smitten in its early dawn?
Have clouds o'ercast thy purpose, truth, or plan?
Have faith, and struggle on!

(R. S. S. Andros in the Philadelphia Bulletin)

Life in Kansas a majority of them farmers. Give 75 per cent. of them a seventh-grade education and 15 per cent. college degrees and let the rest struggle from the third grade to the high school. Round them up in a strange town, under strange influences, all of the bunch strangers to each other. Put them in two rooms, where one-third never does get acquainted with the other two-thirds. Organize them into committees and in the hands of the heads of the bunch foist upon them a mean, nasty, selfish yet sneaking ambition to hold a state job and move to town. Then bang! Slap down on them from the outside about 100 questions of statesmanship questions that most of them never heard of; things involving millions of dollars, and the good fortunes of a million people. Then let the outer circles of the strange place in the strange town be filled with greedy wolves seeking special privileges of various sorts. And on top of all this give them ninety days in

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS OF
OUR 48th ANNIVERSARY SALE
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We arranged an extraordinary store-wide celebration of our Forty-eighth Anniversary. Selected lines of most desirable merchandise were assembled in every department. These lines were very much reduced in price—the values are as good as it is possible for us to make them—we aimed to make this the most successful birthday event in our business career.

And there are two more days! In every department there are Special Anniversary Values for Friday and Saturday.

36-inch Brown Sheeting, very special value — ANNIVERSARY PRICE 5 YARDS FOR

36-inch Brown Sheeting, heavier grade—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 4 YARDS FOR

20 dozen of the well-known "Pequot" Pillow Cases—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

One lot of Unbleached Sheets, with no center seam, medium grade—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

120 Bleached Pequot Sheets, size 81x90—Also 100 Peppercell Sheets, size 81x99—Very special value—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

50 dozen Turkish Wash Clothes—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 12 FOR SIZE 15-inch Napkins—ANNIVERSARY PRICE EACH.....

One lot of Fancy Jacquard Turkish Towels, assorted colorings, former prices as high as 69c—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 2 FOR

25 dozen, extra heavy Bleached Turkish (Towels—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

10 dozen, heavy-weight Union Linen Towels — ANNIVERSARY PRICE

58-inch Bleached Table Damask—ANNIVERSARY PRICE A YARD

66-inch All-Linen Table Damask—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

70-inch extra heavy All-Linen Table Damask — ANNIVERSARY PRICE

100 Bath Rugs, assorted grades, subject to slight imperfections, regular value \$1.98 to \$3.98—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

24 Hemmed Satin Bed Spreads, full double-bed size—very special value—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

25 pairs of Sample Blankets, assorted styles, former value up to \$7.98 a pair—ANNIVERSARY PRICE

15 pairs of Wool Blankets, white and gray—ANNIVERSARY PRICE A PAIR

27-inch White Donnet Flannel, good quality — ANNIVERSARY PRICE 4 YARDS FOR

36-inch Dress Percales, new Spring designs, in checks, stripes, and figures, light greens—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 3 YARDS FOR

Best quality Apron Gingham, good selection of various sizes in blue checks—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 3 YARDS FOR

27-inch Dress Gingham, fine quality, newest Spring designs, in checks, plaids and stripes—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 3 YARDS FOR

Best quality, 27-inch Cutting Flannel, checks, stripes and plaids—ANNIVERSARY PRICE 3 YARDS FOR

Peggy Cloth, 32 inches wide, stripes and plain colors, for Children's wear—ANNIVERSARY PRICE $\frac{3}{4}$ YARDS FOR

rolled government in both state and nation. The most noticeable tendency in progressive cities today, is that towards a complete abolition of the old style of city government.

When cities first organized led governments, they took copy from the state and provided an executive under the legislature and a legislative council, usually consisting of two branches, one sometimes called "common council," analogous to the national house of representatives, and one "board of aldermen," analogous to the senate. A great many cities are finding out that this system is not only cumbersome but that it is also extravagant, inefficient, and produces too much corruption. Several hundred have already abolished it. In its place they have substituted "city manager" schemes in which just one man, residing in a small cabinet of assistants, each one an expert in some one line of city work, does all the city's business and takes all the responsibility.

Apparently, this is working pretty well in most cases: better than the old scheme, anyway. Apparently, also, it is the system to which many other cities are tending. As urban control of states and nation consolidates its grip, are we going to see a similar change in state and national governments?

Stranger things have happened.

The state highway department has closed the road being built from the Center towards Hebron at the four corners west of the residence of L. A. Winter, during the completion of necessary repairs and have arranged a detour northly from the Center, by way of Columbia Lake.

Victor Brousseau, tax collector, stated that Thursday, the first day for the payment of taxes, he received 1,818.80 the total amount due being 10,268.80 from 431 individuals or firms.

There will be a demonstration of the

Lalley electric light at Yeomans' hall, Columbia. Saturday evening, April 9th, by Wood and Ladd of Willimantic, agent for the C. S. Mersick Co., distributors, of New Haven, the demonstration to take place during the whist party to be held that evening.—adv.

Miss Rilla Chapman left Sunday for Western, where she will stay with Mrs. Harriet Wolcott during the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Morton Cook and daughter Barbara of Stonington, also Mrs. Frank Brown and daughter Betty of Ashaway, were dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson Sunday. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Cook attended the church services.

Alexander Tanner of Voluntown was guest of Clark Coon Saturday evening and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bentley of White Rock attended church Sunday morning and afterward were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Thompson, who also entertained Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hillard and Miss Lucile Wheeler of North Stonington in the evening.

W. E. Almy and C. H. Cottrell have purchased new horses.

Henry Johnson, fire warden in this pa-

Henry Johnson, fire warden in this part of the town, with a force of men, was called out Tuesday evening for a fire near Ashwillett.

School began the spring term Monday. There was no vacation. Miss Katherine Thompson is a new pupil.

W. H. Manning of Norwich was through this place recently.

Sunday afternoon a large tract of forest land was damaged by fire. It was necessary to call the fire warden and men, who fought the flames from about 1.30 to 6 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Hattie Wade was in New London

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Musterol is used for relief of pain from such as throat, bronchitis, tonsillitis, croup, stiff neck, asthma, neuralgia, headache, congestion, pleurisy, rheumatism, lumbago, pains and aches of the back or joints, sprains, sore muscles, burns, insect bites, and colds in the chest (It often prevents pneumonia).

35c and 65c jars, hospital size \$3.00



to attend the Murray-Walton wedding Thursday.

Carlton H. White of Webster, Mo. was in town over the week end.

Mrs. Evans is in New York.

Mrs. John Nixons is reported as going at St. Joseph's hospital. Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stebbins and family of Jewett City were at Allen Jew Sunday.

TODAY AND TOMORROW ONLY

The materials are Tricotine, Mignonette, Crepe-de-Chine, Taffetas and Satins.

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Heavy quality Georgette and hand-made Batiste and Voile
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